

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/867,352

Examiner

Lin Ye

Applicant(s)

MCCONICA, CHARLES H.

Art Unit

2615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to the amendment filed on 14 October 2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-14, 16-23, 27 and 32.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 29 May 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>02172005</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Robert W. Nelson on February 15, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

- a. Cancel claims 24-26.
- b. Rewrite claim 14 as following:
 - Claim 14: A method for reducing motion blur in an image, said method comprising: providing image data representative of said image; analyzing said image data to detect the presence of motion blur in said image; wherein analyzing said image data to calculate a first figure of merit of said digital image in a first direction; analyzing said image data to calculate a second figure of merit of said digital image in a second direction, said first and said second directions being substantially orthogonal; calculating a first ration of said first figure of merit to said second figure of merit, said ratio being the greater of said first or said second figure of merit divided by the lesser of said first or said second figure of merit; and comparing said first ration to a preselected value, wherein motion blur exists in said digital image if said first ratio is greater than said preselected value; and

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processing said image data to increase edge acuity of said image in said direction of said motion blur. --

c. Cancel claim 15

d. Uncancel claim 16 and Rewrite it as following:

-- Claim 16: The method of claim 14, wherein said analyzing said image data to detect the direction of motion blur comprises determining the lowest value of said first and said second figures of merit, said lowest value corresponding to said direction of motion blur.--

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-14, 16-23, 27 and 32 allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not teach or fairly suggest a method for detecting motion blur in a digital image, said method comprising: providing image data representative of said digital image; analyzing said image data to calculate a first figure of merit of said digital image in a first direction; analyzing said image data to calculate a second figure of merit of said digital image in a second direction, said first and said second directions being substantially orthogonal; calculating a first ratio of said first figure of merit to said second figure of merit, said ratio being the greater of said first or second figure of merit divided by the lesser of said first or second figure of merit; and comparing said first ratio to a preselected value, wherein motion blur exists in said digital image if said first ratio is greater than said preselected value.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments"

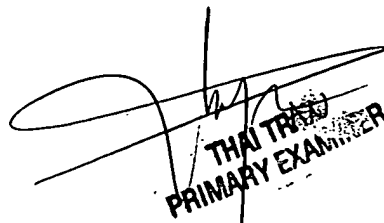
Conclusion

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lin Ye whose telephone number is (703) 305-3250. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on (703) 305-4725. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lin Ye
February 17, 2005



THAI TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER